

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An article turning-round apparatus provided with first and second stations at which a plurality of disposable wearing articles each having, in addition to front and rear waist regions opposed to each other, a waist-surrounding upper end zone and a crotch bottom zone, are successively loaded and unloaded, respectively, and adapted to successively turn round said articles moving from said first station to said second station, said article turning-round apparatus being characterized by that:

said turning-round apparatus further comprises a rotary base adapted to be rotated by means of a first shaft and provided along a peripheral zone thereof with said first and second stations and a plurality of load-carrying tables arranged at regular intervals along said peripheral zone, said load-carrying tables being adapted to carry thereon said articles of which said front or rear waist regions are held in contact with said load-carrying tables;

said load-carrying tables comprise first load-carrying tables rotatably mounted on said rotary base by means of second shafts extending in an axial direction of said first shaft so as to be rotated around their own axes in said peripheral zone of said rotary base and to be simultaneously moved along said peripheral zone of said rotary base as said rotary base rotates and second load-carrying tables rotatably mounted on said rotary base by means of third shafts extending in the axial direction of said first shaft so as to be rotated around their own axes in said peripheral zone of said rotary base and to be simultaneously moved along said peripheral zone of said rotary base as said rotary base rotates wherein said first and second load-carrying tables are alternately arranged on said rotary base so that each of said second load-carrying tables be interposed between each pair of said first load-carrying tables; and

said first and second load-carrying tables are successively loaded with said articles having respective waist-surrounding upper end zones lined up in a predetermined direction as soon as said first and second load-carrying tables alternately reach said first station as said rotary base rotates wherein said first load-carrying tables are rotated around their own axes in said peripheral zone of said rotary base and thereby turned round approximately by an angle of 90° clockwise or counterclockwise while said first load-carrying tables move from said first station

to said second station and said second load-carrying tables are rotated around their own axes in said

peripheral zone of said rotary base and thereby turned round approximately by an angle of 90° in the direction opposite to that of said first load-carrying tables while said second load-carrying tables move from said first station to said second station as said rotary base rotates.

2. (Original) The article turning-round apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said first and second load-carrying tables include a first suction mechanism functioning to hold said articles on said first and second load-carrying tables under a suction effect so that said first and second load-carrying tables move along said peripheral zone of said rotary base from said first station to said second station together with said articles held thereon under the suction effect and simultaneously rotate around their own axes in said peripheral zone of said rotary base.
3. (Currently Amended) The article turning-round apparatus according to Claim 1 [[or 2]], further comprising a first conveyor belt assembly adapted to convey said articles at regular intervals to said first station of said rotary base so that each pair of adjacent said articles may have respective waist-surrounding upper end zones lined up with each other and a second conveyor belt assembly adapted to convey said articles away from said second station of said rotary base at regular intervals so that each pair of adjacent said articles may have respective waist-surrounding upper end zones opposed to each other.
4. (Currently Amended) The article turning-round apparatus according to Claim 1 [[or 2]], further comprising a first conveyor belt assembly adapted to convey said articles at regular intervals to said first station of said rotary base so that each pair of adjacent said articles may have respective waist-surrounding upper end zones and respective crotch bottom zones opposed to each other and a second conveyor belt assembly adapted to convey said articles away from said second station of said rotary base at regular intervals so that each pair of adjacent said articles may have respective waist-surrounding upper end zones and respective crotch bottom zones lined up each other.

5. (Currently Amended) The article turning-round apparatus according to Claim 3 [[or 4]], wherein said first conveyor belt assembly includes a second suction mechanism adapted to hold said articles on said first conveyor belt under a suction effect and, when said first and second load-carrying tables come face to face with said first conveyor belt assembly, said first suction mechanism effectively functions against the effect of said second suction mechanism to transfer said articles from said first conveyor belt assembly onto said first and second load-carrying tables.

6. (Currently Amended) The article turning-round apparatus according to ~~any one of Claims 3 through 5~~ Claim 3, wherein said second conveyor belt assembly includes a third suction mechanism adapted to hold said articles on said second conveyor belt under a suction effect and, when said first and second load-carrying tables come face to face with said second conveyor belt assembly, said third suction mechanism effectively functions against the effect of said first suction mechanism to transfer said articles from said first and second load-carrying tables onto said second conveyor belt assembly.

7. (Currently Amended) The article turning-round apparatus according to ~~any one of Claims 1 through 6~~ Claim 1, wherein said article is a pull-on disposable diaper comprising a liquid-impervious topsheet facing a wearer's body, a liquid-impervious backsheet facing away from said wearer's body and a liquid-absorbent core interposed between said top- and backsheets and formed with a waist-hole and a pair of leg-holes.